

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [42] on page 12 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The first embodiment of the present invention provides a technique that is applicable when the disk drive is open. All of the other embodiments of the present invention that will be described herein are applicable when the disk drive is sealed. According to the first embodiment of the present invention, a Laser Doppler Vibrometer (LDV) that is external to the disk drive is used for determining the minimum slider-to-disk clearance change from the design flying height of the slider as the applied bias voltages are varied. Figure 5 depicts a system 500 for measuring the flying height of a slider with respect for a disk using an LDV. In Figure 5, a slider body 501 is suspended above a hard disk 502 by a suspension 504 as disk 502 moves from right to left with respect to slider body 501, as indicated by arrow 503. A bias voltage 505 having a SC component VDC plus an AC component  $V_0 \sin \omega t$  is output from an AC/DC power supply 706 and is applied between slider body 501 and disk 502. The bias voltage 505 is applied to slider body 501 through suspension 504. The bias voltage 505 is varied under the control of computer 507. An LDV 508 measures a velocity of the trailing edge of slider body 501. A lockin amplifier 509 measures first and second harmonics of the LCV velocity signal at the AC driving frequency, which is typically at an air bearing frequency. The first harmonic of the AC driving frequency is minimized when the DC bias voltage cancels the contact potential between slider body 501 and disk 502. --